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## **Sen. Gilbert appointed member of 21st Century Jobs Fund Select Committee**

**LANSING** – Sen. Jud Gilbert has been appointed by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema to be a member of a joint select committee to oversee the use of the 21st Century Jobs Fund.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve on this committee which will help ensure the use of taxpayer funds is done so with integrity,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “This committee will monitor the funding process to keep personal political motivations from influencing the decisions.”

Sikkema, R-Wyoming, agreed that ensuring confidence in the process is vital to the success of the program.

“There is a lot of money invested in this idea and while a number of safeguards were put in place when the legislation was written, everyone will feel more comfortable if there is additional oversight of the fund’s activities,” said Sikkema. “This process needs to be free of even the slightest perception of being manipulated.”

The committee will be formed under a Senate concurrent resolution and House concurrent resolution, which will be introduced soon.

The bipartisan committee will be co-chaired by Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell; and Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland. Other members of the committee include Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester; Sen. Mickey Switalski, D-Roseville; Rep. Leon Drolet, R-Macomb Township; Rep. Jack Brandenburg, R-Harrison Township; and Rep. Andy Dillon, D-Redford Township.

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